

Today, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) will announce a \$13.5 million Department of Transportation grant to fully repair the Coos Bay rail line. The announcement will take place at 1:30 PM in the Jury Assembly Room of the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse. DeFazio will be joined by members of the International Port of Coos Bay, American Bridge, Southport Lumber, Roseburg Forest Products, as well as State Representative Arnie Roblan, Douglas County Commissioner Susan Morgan, and others.

The Coos Bay Line was embargoed by the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP) in September 2007, which resulted in the loss of hundreds of jobs and had negative impacts on industrial operations in Southwest Oregon. Since CORP embargoed the Coos Bay line, DeFazio has worked with the Port of Coos Bay, and state and local shippers, to get the line reopened.

DeFazio advocated to the Surface Transportation Board to encourage them to approve the Port's application to force the sale of the line to the Port from CORP. DeFazio also secured \$8 million in federal funds in March, 2009, to help the Port of Coos Bay buy the rail line.

"This is amazing news for the Port, the state, and businesses in Southwest Oregon. I am pleased to have been able to help save the rail line," DeFazio said. "This is exactly the type of federal investment we need to put Americans back to work rebuilding our vital infrastructure. Several major employers in the area depend on the rail line to get their goods to market. The shut down has forced businesses to incur additional transportation costs and caused the loss of hundreds of jobs to local communities."

The Port of Coos Bay applied for a competitive TIGER 2 grant to rehabilitate the Coos Bay Rail Line in August, 2010. The \$13.5 million federal grant will be matched by \$1 million from the Port. DeFazio supported the Port's TIGER II application and personally called the Secretary of Transportation in support of the application.

The TIGER II funds will allow the Port to upgrade the rail line to Track Classification 2 (25 mph) and 3 (40 mph) to improve service and make it possible to operate the train with only one crew instead of two, allowing the new railroad to move more loads in a more timely and cost-efficient manner.

The Coos Bay rail line could be reopened as early as next Spring.